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RENDERED RIGHTEOUS VERDICT

The Jury Declare Wilcox to be Guilty of Murder in the First Degree.

REACH A DECISION AFTER THIRTY HOURS

The Sacredness of Woman's Life in North Carolina is Protected.

All Nerves Were on the Stretch.

Wilcox Alone Seemed Unconcerned While the Tension at Elizabeth and Indeed All Over the State Was Terrible. The Verdict Was Not Rendered Until After the Jury Had Returned For Further Instructions From the Judge.

(Special to News and Observer.) Elizabeth City, N. C., March 22.—"Guilty of murder in the first degree," said the jury of Jim Wilcox. He stood up and heard his doom fearlessly. His nerve still did not forsake him. It was 10:10 o'clock. A short time before a recess had been held and crowds were gathering about the court house. There were knots of nervous men hurrying here and there in the moonlight. Judge Jones, who had been to District Attorney Ward's office, went straight towards the building. Mr. Ward started he other way but soon doubled. The jury left their hotel but did not take the direct route. The harsh clanging of the court house bell told people some thing was about to happen.

Several hundred people followed Judge Jones, who told the sheriff to ask the jury if they had agreed. The prisoner was there, hands folded, composed, scanning the faces of the jurors. Clerk Jennings asked if they had agreed. Derickinson was named as foreman. Wilcox stood up and held up his right hand. No man in the building was more brave than he. I was watching his face four feet away, as the foreman said the words that meant death. Not a muscle of his face moved. Other people in the room were nervous. Some cried. Lawyer Aydtlett shed tears. It was a solemn scene there in the yellow glow of the oil light. The Judge said April 25 was the time Wilcox should die, between 10 and 3 o'clock. Sheriff Wilcox looked sad but was not demonstrative. The doomed man uttered no word as he sat down again. The brave bearing throughout the ordeal did not forsake him at the end but he sat there like a pale-faced statue, while lookers on were nervous and trembled visibly. No verdict in thirty hours. People lingered on the streets all day, missed their meals, made their wives mad, excited their neighbors, said bad words, expressed displeasure at delay, all because of the Wilcox case.

Early Hours of the Night.

All day and night the natives have waited on the jury's verdict, not patiently, but anxiously, almost breathlessly. They couldn't see why it took them so long. On the streets, in the stores, around the offices, in hotel lobbies, everywhere, nothing was talked of, nothing was thought of but the jury's verdict. And the way some folks discussed it would chill the blood of a stoic.

ASK FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

About 1 o'clock the jury went back to the court house to ask further instructions from the judge. It had been said before the jury would have Judge Jones come down to their hotel and explain some things, and it was no surprise when they filed back into the court room and sought enlightenment.

One of them asked the court to say something about first and second degree murder. The building soon filled. Judge Jones went over the instructions and rules already given and printed. He explained the difference in murder degrees and told them if there was doubt it was their duty to give it to the prisoner. Judge Jones cautioned the jury again about allowing any foreign impressions or anything heard or seen beyond the witnesses. He said if their verdict was influenced by passion prejudice or any public sentiment shown during the trial they would do violence to their oaths, they would perjure themselves. He told the jury to come back as often as they liked, it was their duty, and have explained any point not fully understood. He cautioned the jury not to construe his words to mean that he had an opinion in the matter, and if they had, to treat his opinion with contempt, to find a verdict in accordance with the facts, the evidence and nothing else.

In releasing the jury he said: "Mr. officer take these men back. If they wish to walk let them do so, it is a hardship to keep them in a room after so

long confinement, they need exercise. Go back gentlemen."

The judge repeated that before they could find Wilcox guilty they must decide that his conduct was not only consistent with guilt, but inconsistent with innocence.

Some folks thought when the jury went into the court room they had come to a conclusion, and there was excitement for awhile. Wilcox was brought into court. He sat in a section heretofore used by reporters and watched with languid interest. There was no emotion, no sign of feeling or fear. When it was all over and the jury had gone, District Attorney Ward remarked to Mr. Aydtlett: "You don't want them to clear him, do you?" Mr. Aydtlett replied, "I don't know," and passed on. Mr. Bond, another defense lawyer left tonight for his home in Edenton without having heard the verdict.

Mr. Ward, who has labored so hard, so conscientiously and so ably for the State's interest, waited for the finding with the enthusiasm of a court struck novice. All day his constituents were coming to him with congratulations for the fight he had made. Mr. Aydtlett and others for the defense, were also besieged with admirers.

Questioned about the danger of violence, former Sheriff Wilcox, Jim's father, said he anticipated no trouble tonight. "He thought the deputies sworn in could keep order and save his son in case the mob should try to do anything. Mr. Wilcox is a highly respected citizen, and for his conservatism as well as for his loyalty to his boy, the public here gives out its sympathy. Mr. Wilcox, talking about the case with tears in his eyes. He knew the situation and deplores it. He realizes Jim's position.

It is understood that Jim said today he would rather be hanged than go to State's prison for a long time. The maximum term here is thirty years. There is a rumor that Jim had a dream, and said words about the case in his sleep, words that showed his feeling. A negro jail inmate is reported to have heard them. Wilcox uttered a protest against people following him between the jail and the court house. He is carried to and from without hand-cuffs. When the verdict is brought in the judge will, if it is conviction, name the day of death or the time in State's prison, and then the defense lawyers have the right to appeal, which they will. The elder Wilcox will spend his whole estate before seeing Jim convicted unjustly.

District Attorney Ward thinks he knows one man on the jury who is holding out for Wilcox, and there may be others. Mr. Ward does not think the two negro jurors count for much. He believes they will be swayed by the white men. People are saying words of sympathy for the jurors. It is realized they will be criticized in any event, and should one man cause a mistrial it will not be pleasant for him hereabouts. In no case of importance has public sentiment been so much one way. Like before the bar of heavenly justice all Elizabeth City tonight is waiting for the jury's words eagerly, anxiously, nervously, almost breathlessly. Most of them want the prisoner punished legally if possible, but punished. Talk indicates they will see that he does not go unpunished. This afternoon the jury took a walk.

The Afternoon Report.

(Special to News and Observer.) Elizabeth City, N. C., March 22.—Like men before the bar of celestial justice the good citizens of Elizabeth City waited for the verdict. They stood upon the street corners, they gathered in the stores and talked about the Wilcox case. Nothing else was thought of; nothing else was talked about.

Early this morning there was a street report that the jury stood 8 to 4 for hanging, and later it was said they were 10 to 2. A prosecuting lawyer had information it was 9 to 3.

All over town people were anxious and there were all sorts of reports. Many said Wilcox would live longer on a verdict of conviction than if he were freed. The talk has been all along that a leader was lacking, but they were saying today that several leaders could be had if the jury did not do its duty as the people saw it.

I tried to learn if the common rumors were true. Jury Officer Pritchard was seen at the River View Hotel. The jury was closeted and he was on the veranda. Mr. Pritchard declared there was no foundation in any of the rumors. He had not heard their debates and did not know how the jurors were; nobody else could know. The jury had luncheon about two o'clock. Miss Lettie Croysey, Nell's sister, was out driving about noon. Asked to say something about the case Lettie said she did not see how the jury could do any-

thing but convict. She knew that Nell had ceased to care for Jim some weeks before the murder. They had been at outs since about the first of November. She discussed the case feelingly.

A FAMINE IN COTTON

Facing a Deficiency of 1,000,000 Bales in the Supply.

(Special to News and Observer.) New York, March 22.—The cotton market closed tonight at 25 points below the highest figures reached during the course of the present bull movement. The decline has been the result of selling on the part of over-loaded bull operators in conjunction with bearish attacks made by those whose purpose it is to profit through the unwisely extended accounts of weak speculators.

Thus it seems that the decline has run its course. The following are the cold facts of the situation. Spot cotton throughout the South is selling above the equivalent of New York prices, and at very nearly the highest prices of the season. Consumption is practically the largest on record. The reports of the

FAKE DENIED BY HON. BY WATSON

"I Have Never Spoken to Judge Clark About the Senatorship or the Chief Justiceship," He Declares.

(Special to the News and Observer.)

Winston-Salem, N. C., March 22.—Mr. C. B. Watson was asked today about the report sent out from Greensboro to the morning papers with regard to political rumors concerning the Chief Justiceship and Senatorship. Mr. Watson made this statement: "I have been from home most of the winter attending professional duties. There is positively no ground for such a rumor—if there be such a rumor—and I do not believe there is any such rumor, except in the ears of this nameless correspondent. I have never been in a political combination and never will be. I never spoke to Judge Clark about the Chief Justiceship nor the Senatorship, and if that gentlemen has any choice among the gentlemen spoken of for that high office he has never by word or letter intimated the same to me. I have not seen Judge Clark but once in a year and then never spoke to him on the subject of his candidacy or mine. No letter has

exhaustion that reached me from the South are from people who cannot be untruthful, and the prospect of the greatest cotton famine the world has ever known is none the less definite, because prices have reacted 25 points.

The statistical situation tonight is as follows: Receipts today are 17,000 bales; exports are 44,000 bales; net stocks at the United States ports tonight are 624,000; stocks at the interior towns are 444,000 bales. The amount of cotton to come into sight if the crop is 10,000,000 bales is 900,000; total available supply in America 1,968,000. The minimum required from this supply for American and American consumption, to the end of the season, are 1,900,000. For export 1,300,000. Necessary stocks at the end of the season 150,000; total 3,050,000. With an American crop of 10,000,000 bales, therefore, we are face to face with an actual deficiency of 1,000,000 bales of cotton in the supply. Under these circumstances there seems to be no reason to anticipate any further decline in the market. I take this method of replying to the many telegrams that I have received and to advise people who own cotton to hold it, and these who are prepared to trade in it to buy it.

THEODORE H. PRICE.

Hanna Entertains the Gridiron Club.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, March 22.—Senator Hanna gave a dinner tonight at the Arlington to the Gridiron Club. The Senator has been a guest at every Gridiron dinner since he has been in Washington and the affair tonight was to get the members of the club together to acknowledge the "many roasts" that he has received at their hands, and as he says, to "play a return engagement." It was attended only by members of the club who took occasion to see that the Senator did not escape being placed on the Gridiron even though he was the host. It was a thoroughly enjoyable affair, their being good speeches, songs, and several "gists" which were a surprise to the host. The Senator received a number of "presentations" each with great formality but with a vein of satire and humor which characterized Gridiron dinners.

MISS BURNS IS FREE

The Girl Accused of Murdering Walter Brooks is Discharged.

(By the Associated Press.)

New York, March 22.—Florence Burns, the young Brooklyn woman who has been in the custody of the police of this city since February 15 under suspicion of knowing how Walter Brooks met his death, was discharged from custody by Justice Mayer tonight.

Brooks, who was a young commission merchant here, had been keeping company with Florence Burns. He was found dead the night of February 14 in a room at the Glen Island Hotel. The gas in the room was turned on and there was a bullet wound in the head.

The District Attorney tried to show that Florence Burns was likely to have killed Brooks because he was trying to break off his association with her. The defense advanced the outside theory and for several days Justice Mayer has been examining into the two theories. He finally decided, when the hearing closed tonight, that nothing had been brought out sufficient to hold Florence Burns to the grand jury. After her discharge, she returned to her home in Brooklyn.

At the hearing this afternoon Attorney Backus, representing her Burns girl, made his argument, contending there was not an iota of evidence to show that his client was connected with the death of Brooks.

Assistant Attorney Schurman followed in an argument intended to cast suspicion on the girl, holding that there was plenty of circumstantial evidence on which to bring her case to the attention of the grand jury.

Justice Mayer at once gave his decision in which he reviewed all the evidence and held that nothing had been brought out by the State sufficient for him to hold

passed between himself and myself in twelve months except as to a matter to be published in the regimental histories. No friend of his has spoken to me on such a subject, nor have I ever authorized any man to speak to him or any friend of his on the subject. Now this is intended as a complete denial of the fake. I prefer to have to go into print in this way and had rather live in obscurity than be compelled to do so. If the people of North Carolina should see proper to invest me with the great office of Senator, I should receive it and appreciate it as a high and distinguished honor and at the same time realize its great responsibilities. If the people prefer another I will never be heard to complain. I have never avoided a duty or responsibility and have never complained of treatment at the hands of political associates, but I would not enter into a political combination with any man, or set of men, to secure any place within the people's gift."

the girl for trial in the criminal branch of the Supreme court.

Justice Mayer is of the special sessions court and sat as an examining magistrate.

EARLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

The hearing in the case of Florence Burns, who is accused of the murder of Walter S. Brooks in the Glen Island Hotel, this city, on February 14, was continued today before Justice Mayer in the Court of Special Sessions. Ruth Dunn, the young woman on whose account it is alleged Brooks wished to break off his relations with Florence Burns, was the first witness today. She said she saw Walter Brooks on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings before his death. This closed her testimony and at the request of Attorney Backus, for the defendant, her evidence was stricken from the record.

Mr. Backus, the prisoner's counsel, moved that certain statements made by his client to detectives be stricken from the record because she had not been informed of her rights when the statements were made. Assistant District Attorney Schurman opposed this motion but Justice Mayer granted it, saying he had searched carefully for a precedent where the statement of defendant, when notified of the charge against him or her, had been used as evidence, and he had failed to find one case.

Justice Mayer said he found no warrant in law for the questioning of a prisoner by a police officer before the prisoner had been arraigned before a police magistrate or informed of his rights.

Mr. Schurman said he hoped the court would make it possible to have that view thoroughly tested.

"It is going to work the greatest innovation in the system in vogue," he added, "not only in the city of New York but the entire country. Thousands of cases have been decided in court here on statements made by prisoners to officers before the arraignment."

Justice Mayer said then the system might have been established by custom, but as long as there was no warrant for it in the law custom could have no

force. The justice also declared that there was no law permitting a person to be arrested on suspicion.

CRIMINAL CASES AT WILSON.

Jury Finds Langley Killed in Self Defense Case of Gay and Ruffin Undecided.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Wilson, N. C., March 22.—Court has been in session here during the entire week. The case against Langley for killing a negro near Wilson during last summer, was tried. The jury brought in a verdict of self-defense. The next case taken up was that of Will Ruffin for the killing of Robt. Bullock on December 31st, 1899. The jury has had the case for two days, but have not yet been able to reach a verdict. This is Ruffin's second trial, the previous one having resulted in a mistrial.

The case of George Gay for the killing of Aycock a few months ago was taken up yesterday. All the evidence for both sides is in and today began argument by counsel. It is the plea of the defense that Gay did the killing in a moment of insanity. It has been brought out on the stand that at times he was not himself, and on several occasions he has had to leave his work in order to recover from these spells. The only eye witness in the case says he heard no words before the shooting except that Gay told him, that is Aycock, that he had treated him like a damn nigger and that he was going to kill him. Public opinion in the case has quieted down considerably.

Court this week has been held in the new court house. The conveniences offered by the new building facilitate to a great extent the workings of the court.

BITTEN BY MAD CATS.

Three People Attacked. They Leave for Charlotte For Treatment.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Hoffman, N. C., March 22.—There was much excitement in town this morning, caused by three run mad cats at the residence of Mrs. L. Hartman, on Beach avenue. Mrs. Hartman and child were attacked and bitten badly. The cats also attacked Master Frank Butler, who was coming up street and bit him on the face. The parties left for Charlotte immediately to have the mad stone applied. The cats were finally killed by Mr. Ballentine.

A VESSEL ON FIRE

A Telegram from Kitty Hawk States That She is Off Our Coast.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, March 22.—Chief of the Life Saving Service Kimball this morning received a telegram from Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, stating that the keeper of the Oregon Inlet Life Saving Station reports a vessel on fire about fifteen miles southeast of the station. The keeper of the station further reported that he saw a steamer pass the station at daylight this morning and this is believed to be the vessel that is on fire.

ATHLETICS THE FAD.

Tobacco Warehouse Assured. Beaufort's Enormous Tobacco Deposit.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Washington, N. C., March 22.—Boxing has been resumed as the fad here during the last few days. The Washington Light Infantry members give at their armory almost every night exhibitions of their skill. Crowds line the ring side every night and physical sports are enjoyed and encouraged in the town.

Yesterday I was told that there would certainly be a tobacco warehouse here this summer and fall. Most of the stock is already subscribed. The tobacco interests of this county are enormous as is attested by the fertilizer men. Greenville warehouses report a large tobacco trade from this county. This would not be with warehouses here. Beaufort's weight average to the acre was larger than any other county's in the State last year.

The coming of the Philadelphia baseball team means much for this place. Newspaper men, who accompany them, have arranged for the transmission of ten thousand words a day over the wire about Washington, its advantages and the baseball. They will be here about fifteen days. Washington has no baseball team and it is hoped that the coming of this team will arouse the local enthusiasts.

Mr. H. Suman, of the Suman Furniture Company, is preparing to buy five brick stores on Market street between Satterthwaite, Willis & Co., and C. M. Little.

There is a division of feeling about the Wilcox case here. Some take the view that he is not guilty, according to the legal evidence. Great interest is evinced in the case.

The Atlantic Coast Line is bringing girders and material here seemingly for building. Officials here are not informed as to the plans, and nothing can be learned from the Wilmington division Lack of room is seriously felt here.

WARRANTS TO BE SENT NEXT WEEK.

On Monday the State Will Issue the First Warrants to Needy School Districts.

Superintendent of Public Instruction J. Y. Joyner, said yesterday that the warrants for the second \$100,000 appropriated by the last Legislature to bring up the needy school districts to the constitutional requirement of a four month term would be sent out next week to those counties which have complied with the law and have been passed upon favorably. The first of these warrants will be sent out on Monday.

VICTORY IS FOR THE BOYS IN LIGHT BLUE

Oxford Again Fails to Pull With Cambridge.

GAME BUT NEVER IN IT

Cambridge Takes the Fifty-Ninth Race as She Likes.

NINETEEN MINUTES, NINE SECONDS

Cambridge Had the Advantage of Station. The Distance Separating the Boats at the Finish Nearly Eight Lengths.

Immense Crowds.

(By the Associated Press.)

Putney, England, March 22.—The Cambridge crew today fulfilled the expectations of the prophets and won the fifty-ninth boat race with Oxford as they liked. The time was 19 minutes, 9 seconds. At no time throughout the race did Oxford in the slightest degree flatter the hopes of the supporters of the dark blue. Any possible chance which the Oxonian might have had was shattered by the result of the toss giving the light blue (Cambridge) all the advantage of tide. Immense crowds, as usual, turned out to view the contest and the weather, though showery, was not so inclement as had been most of the previous years. Cambridge was the first to take water, Oxford following after a delay, and both crews paddled moored skiffs at the starting. Start was delayed owing to the tide, making it difficult to have the boats noses straight. Lieut. Willan, the umpire, however, turned them away in a capital style, anticipated, the livelier light blues gave them the advantage, and their lead was every stroke. By the steps were reached, Cambridge clear length to the good. Patient to every one that the race in hand, barring accidents, lay's somewhat sluggish stroke appeared to be too slow to suit some of the powerful Oxford men behind him. Their weight would have told, at least in the earlier part of the race, had they been given more chance. As it was, each landmark on the river banks found them further and further in the rear, and at Harrod's Stores their troubles were increased by the wash of their opponents' boat. Off the Saccharine Works the dark blue stroke made his effort and the Oxford crew struggled gamely but only for a short distance. Nelson (Cambridge) did not quicken his stroke and the gap was reduced to about a length as the boats shot under Hammersmith bridge.

The effort took all the steam out of the Oxonians, their stroke dropped from 37 to 32, and the race was practically over. Cambridge came right away, pulling comfortably at an average of 28 strokes to the minute, and increased her lead without the slightest effort. Before reaching Barnes Bridge, the dark blues were in the greatest trouble, while the light blues amid hearty cheers, paddled past the ship, at Mortlake, the easiest winners of the tames university boat race in many years.

The official time of the finish was 19 minutes, 9 seconds, and the distance separating the two boats was officially given out as being five lengths, but it was nearly eight lengths.

The spectators, especially the Oxonians, were not slow to show their resentment at the somewhat rare spectacle of a university "eight" absolutely rowed out.

The defeated crew included the Brothers Milburn, of Buffalo. This was the first time on record that two Americans participated in an Oxford-Cambridge boat race.

DEATH UNMasks A WOMAN.

Supposed to be a Man. Death Occurs Under Mysterious Circumstances.

(By the Associated Press.)

Cambridge, N. Y., March 22.—A person who was known here for five years as William C. Howard died suddenly Wednesday an autopsy showed that the supposed man was a woman. Howard, who was about 56 years of age and who was employed as a farm hand, came here five years ago with a woman who was known as Mrs. Howard. Two children were born to the supposed wife.

The dead woman worked for farmers in the neighborhood and those most intimately acquainted with the family never had the slightest suspicion that she was not a man. The cause of the woman's death is a mystery. On Wednesday night she took two tablets for a throat affection and was dead in ten minutes. The medicine was sent from Wellsville, this State, where relatives reside. The authorities are completely mystified as to all matters touching upon the woman's life. The do not even know her right name. Two men, claiming to be half brothers, attended the funeral, but refused to divulge any information. An inquest is to be held and some light may then be thrown upon the strange case.

An agreeable man is one who consents to being taught things which he already knows.